Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 /073 W
------221929Z 040364 /53

R 221411Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5357 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PCT, IS

SUBJECT: NRP EXCLUDES RAPHAEL FROM KNESSET LIST

REF: TEL AVIV 486

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: YITZHAK RAPHAEL, CONTROVERSIAL MINISTER OF RELIGION PRIOR TO THE NRP'S OUSTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT LAST DECEMBER AND HEAD OF ONE OF THAT PARTY'S MAJOR FACTIONS, HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE NRP KNESSET LIST FOR THE MAY ELECTION. IN A MOVE THAT HAS BEEN HESTATING OVER SEVERAL MONTHS, THE LEADERS OF THE OTHER FACTIONS COMBINED TO KEEP HIS NAME OFF THE LIST. THEIR ACTION WAS CONFIRMED MARCH 20 BY THE PARTY'S "UNITED EXECUTIVE."

2. THE FIRST TWELVE PLACES OF THE ALL BUT COMPLETE LIST HAS BEEN ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS: 1. YOUSEF BURG; 2. ZEVULUN HAMMER; 3. AHARON ABU-HATZIRA, 4. AVRAHAM MELAMED; 5. YEHUDA BEN-MEIR; 6. ELIEZER AVTEBI; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 7. DAVID GLASS; 8. ZERAH WARHAFTIG; 9. BEN-ZION RUBIN; 10. SARA STERN-KATAN; 11. RESERVED FOR THE RELIGIOUS KIBBUTZIM FACTION (WHICH IS DIVIDED OVER WHETHER TO HAVE THEIR OWN CANDIDATE); 12. PINHAS SHEIMMAN.
- 3. WARHAFTIG, WHO WAS NUMBER TWO IN THE NRP'S 8TH (CURRENT) KNESSET LIST, WAS NOT RENOMINATED BY HIS

OWN FACTION. HOWEVER, HE WAS NONETHELESS ACCORDED 8TH POSITION BY THE UNITED EXECUTIVE. END UNCLASSIFIED

4. COMMENT: BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: THE REPORT THAT TWO LEADERS IN RAPHAEL'S FACTION, AHARON ABUHATZIRA AND DAVID GLASS, JOINED THE MOVE TO OUST HIM BODES ILL FOR ANY HOPE HE MAY HAVE ENTERTAINED TO LEAD HIS FACTION IN FORMING A SEPARATE LIST OUTSIDE THE NRP. THE YOUTH FACTION, WHICH HAS LED THE FIGHT AGAINST RAPHAEL, BELIEVES THE PARTY'S IMMAGE WILL IMPROVE WITH HIS OUSTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER HE HAS A FOLLOWING SUFFICIENTLY LOYAL AND NUMEROUS TO DESERT THE NRP AND OFFSET THE NEW SUPPORT FOR THE PARTY EXPECTED TO DEVELOP WITH THE REMOVAL OF A LEADER (RAPHAEL) ACCUSED OF PAST SHADY BUSINESS DEALINGS.

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Message Attributes

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